AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A seabed anchor in the form of a caisson having a longitudinal axis and comprising a caisson side wall, said side wall surrounding an interior volume and having top and bottom ends and[[,]] a bottom edge of said side wall defining an open caisson bottom ~~and a closed caisson top that together define an interior volume of the caisson,~~ which permits the anchor to be embedded ~~characterized by seabed soil retaining means for retaining seabed soil displaced during embedment of the anchor~~ in seabed soil in a direction generally downwardly along said longitudinal axis by penetration of ~~such that~~ said ~~the~~ side wall edge into the soil, wherein a lower portion of said interior volume is substantially free of obstruction, and wherein means for retaining seabed soil are provided in an upper portion of said interior volume, said means for retaining seabed soil being adapted to displace, receive and retain a quantity of seabed soil, a weight of seabed soil retained by the means for retaining seabed soil ~~retaining means adds~~ adding to the force required to pull the embedded anchor out of the seabed when the anchor has been emplaced.

2. (Currently Amended) An anchor as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a top wall substantially closing the interior volume at its upper end, while being ~~characterized in that said anchor is~~ provided with a fluid connection to the interior volume, to allow fluid to be withdrawn from an upper part of said interior volume during embedment ~~whereby suction can be applied to cause embedment of the anchor in seabed soil~~.

3. (Currently Amended) An anchor as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said means for retaining seabed soil ~~retaining means~~ comprises at least one container having an opening arranged to admit seabed soil during embedment of the anchor in the seabed.

4. (Currently Amended) An anchor as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for

~~soil~~ retaining seabed soil ~~means~~ has a downwardly reducing external cross-section to minimize resistance to upward movement of seabed soil past the means for retaining seabed soil ~~retaining means~~ during embedment of the anchor.

5. (Currently Amended) An anchor as claimed in claim 4, wherein said means for retaining seabed soil ~~retaining means~~ comprises at least one conical hopper, having an apex oriented to penetrate the soil during embedment.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A suction~~ An anchor as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said means for retaining ~~the~~ seabed soil ~~retaining means~~ is located entirely within the interior volume of the caisson.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of embedding a seabed anchor ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ in a seabed composed of soil, ~~characterized in that~~ the method ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a seabed anchor having a caisson side wall surrounding an interior volume, said seabed anchor having an open caisson bottom permitting the anchor to be imbedded in the seabed by contact of a bottom edge of said side wall, and said seabed anchor having means for retaining seabed soil disposed in said interior volume;

~~(a)~~(b) deploying the anchor onto the seabed with ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of the anchor aligned substantially in a predetermined direction such that the lower edge of the caisson side wall ~~an open lower end of the anchor, or an opening in the lower end of the anchor,~~ contacts the seabed soil[[,]]; ~~and~~

~~(b)~~(c) applying forces to the anchor directed generally downwardly along the longitudinal axis of the anchor such as to force the anchor into the seabed soil such that the side wall surrounds a quantity of ~~and cause~~ seabed soil, continuing ~~to enter the interior of the anchor~~

eventually to displace seabed soil into the means for retaining seabed soil [[retaining means]] of the anchor[[,]]; and

~~whereby~~ wherein the anchor is embedded in the seabed substantially in said predetermined direction and the weight of seabed soil retained in the means for retaining seabed soil [[retaining means]] adds to the force required to pull the embedded anchor out of the seabed soil.

9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of embedding a suction anchor~~ as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the anchor further comprises a top wall substantially closing the interior volume at its upper end, while being provided with a fluid connection to the interior volume to allow fluid to be withdrawn from an upper part of said interior volume during embedment, and wherein in step (c) said applied force is generated ~~derived~~ by applying suction to the interior volume of the anchor.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said predetermined direction is substantially vertical.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said predetermined direction is partly vertical and partly horizontally directed in a selected bearing such as to embed the anchor into the seabed substantially in a predetermined non-vertical direction that optimises resistance of the [[so-]]embedded anchor to withdrawal by non-vertical loads.

12-14. Cancelled.

15. (New) A gravity base comprising a plurality of seabed anchors, said gravity base comprising:

a plurality of caissons, each caisson including:

(i) a sidewall surrounding an interior volume, said sidewall having a bottom edge defining an open caisson bottom that permits the caisson to be embedded in seabed soil;

(ii) means for retaining seabed soil positioned in an upper portion of said interior volume, said means for retaining seabed soil being adapted to receive seabed soil during emplacement and to retain a quantity of seabed soil after said caisson has been placed, and wherein a weight of the seabed soil retained by the means for retaining seabed soil adds to a force required to pull the embedded anchor out of the seabed.

16. (New) A method of embedding a gravity base comprising a plurality of seabed anchors, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the plurality of seabed anchors, each of said seabed anchors comprising:

a plurality of caissons, each caisson including:

(i) a sidewall surrounding an interior volume, said sidewall having a bottom edge defining an open caisson bottom that permits the caisson to be embedded in seabed soil;

(ii) means for retaining seabed soil positioned in an upper portion of said interior volume, said means for retaining seabed soil being adapted to receive seabed soil during emplacement and to retain a quantity of seabed soil after said caisson has been placed, and wherein a weight of the seabed soil retained by the means for retaining seabed soil adds to a force required to pull the embedded anchor out of the seabed;

deploying the plurality of anchors onto the seabed such that the bottom edges of the caisson sidewalls contact the seabed soil;

applying forces to the anchors directed generally downward along longitudinal axis of the anchors to force the anchors into the seabed soil such that the sidewalls surround a quantity of seabed soil;

displacing seabed soil into the means for retaining seabed soil in each of the anchors, wherein the seabed soil rests on upper surfaces of the means for retaining seabed soil; and

increasing respective weights of the anchors by the seabed soil retained in the means for retaining seabed soil such that additional force is required to pull the anchors out of the seabed soil.